

DRAFT Flatwoods Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2016-2025



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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Flatwoods Conservation Area, # 5624
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1956
- **Acreage:** 935 acres
- **County:** Wayne
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

The Flatwoods Conservation Area (CA) is managed to provide wildlife habitat, forest products and compatible public recreational opportunities.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired condition is a healthy and productive forest and woodland area that provides habitat for wildlife, public recreation and forest products.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS:

I. Special Considerations

A. Priority Areas: Big Lake Creek Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area, Priority Forest Landscape

B. Natural Areas: None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

A. Species of Conservation Concern: None observed.

B. Caves: None

C. Springs: None

III. Existing Infrastructure

- Archery range with parking lot, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- Firearm range with parking lot (ADA-accessible)
- 6 fishless ponds

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations: None

B. Federal Interest: Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

- C. Easements:** Two easements with Black River Electric, M&A Electric Power Cooperative easement, Associated Natural Gas Company easement for pipeline next to and parallel with Highway B, Missouri Department of Transportation easement along Highway B
- D. Cultural Resource Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** Potential hazards exist at the firearm and archery ranges. To mitigate the hazards, warning signs are posted around the perimeter of the firearm and archery ranges according to the Department's Range Manual.
- F. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- G. Boundary Issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

The desired condition of the area is a healthy and productive forest and woodland area that provides wildlife habitat and forest products. Prescribed burning, timber harvests and timber stand improvement are used to manage the area.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) One of the greatest challenges for managing the Flatwoods area is controlling invasive plant species such as seresia lespedeza. Another challenge is maintaining the prescribed burn rotation schedule due to unfavorable weather conditions and having to allocate time to other projects.
- 2) The Flatwoods area provides opportunities to manage for wildlife habitat by using prescribed fire to enhance woodland habitat and using timber harvesting and timber stand improvement projects to manage for productive forests.

Management Objective 1: Maintain the woodland burn area for ecological and habitat purposes.

Strategy 1: Continue to implement prescribed burning on the area's three units, burning on a rotational basis (Forestry).

Management Objective 2: Complete the scheduled forest inventory in order to facilitate the management of forests for wildlife habitat and forest products.

Strategy 1: Encourage mast production; provide cover for wildlife; and increase tree growth, using intermediate thinning, regeneration cuts, unevenaged management, timber stand improvement, etc., based on the scheduled forest

inventory that was completed in 2007. The area will be inventoried on a 15 year rotational basis and will be inventoried again in 2022 (Forestry).

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain the integrity of the area's intermittent streams.
- 2) Maintain riparian corridors along intermittent stream banks to benefit water quality and aquatic species.

Management Objective 1: Maintain riparian corridors along intermittent streams on the area and prevent soil erosion during timber harvests.

Strategy 1: Follow the Missouri Department of Conservation's (the Department's) 2014 *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice* manual when maintaining and constructing roadways and conducting timber harvests (Forestry).

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage visitor safety at the archery and firearms ranges.
- 2) Maintain the area as an attractive place for public recreation. Discourage litter and vandalism at the parking lots and ranges.
- 3) Provide public recreational and economic opportunities for Piedmont area residents and those outside the area, including use of the archery and firearms ranges, wildlife viewing, timber harvesting and hunting.

Management Objective 1: Maintain warning signs around the archery and firearm ranges to promote public safety.

Strategy 1: Post and maintain warning signs around the perimeter of the archery and firearm ranges in accordance with the Department's range manual.

Management Objective 2: Maintain the archery and firearm ranges to promote public enjoyment of the ranges.

Strategy 1: Maintain areas by removing litter, providing targets, maintaining target holders and managing encroaching vegetation with mowing of grass or chemical treatment of pathways.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Dedicate time and resources to maintain the property.
- 2) Maintain area boundary lines.

Management Objective 1: Maintain the area's boundary.

Strategy 1: Paint boundary lines with blue paint on a five-year rotational basis.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Terrestrial Resource Management										
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 1							X			
Administrative Considerations										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1		X					X			

APPENDICES

Area Background:

The Department purchased Flatwoods CA in 1956 from W. R. and Audrey Brown. The purpose for acquiring the land was to restore, manage and protect the natural resources on the property and to provide public use opportunities. During the time of purchase, the property was being harvested under a contract that allowed for the removal of almost all of the better quality timber, leaving mostly undesirable and poor quality trees. In order to begin correcting the previous poor management, timber stand improvement was conducted over most of the area in 1961-62. Since that time, the Department has continued to focus on improving the timber resources and wildlife habitat in the area, along with providing public use opportunities (MDC 1991). In 1990, an archery range was constructed on the area. An agreement was formed with the McKenzie Creek Archery Club to assist with the maintenance of the archery range (E. Hovis, personal communication, 2013). In 1992, a firearms range was constructed to provide additional public use opportunities (J. Jensen, personal communication, 2013). In 2009, a prescribed burn area was created to restore woodland habitat. The prescribed burn area was divided into three units that are scheduled to burn on a three-year rotation. In 2013, an intermediate thinning timber sale was completed on the area. The thinning was followed up with a timber stand improvement to remove undesirable and poor quality trees over approximately two-thirds of the timber sale area.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Upland Forest	674		72
Woodland	254		27
Total	935		100
Stream Frontage		5	

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). (1991). *Flatwoods State Forest plan*. Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). (2014). *Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Topographic Map

Figure 3: Landcover Map

Figure 4: Forest Stand Map

Figure 5: Burn Units Map

Figure 1: Area Map

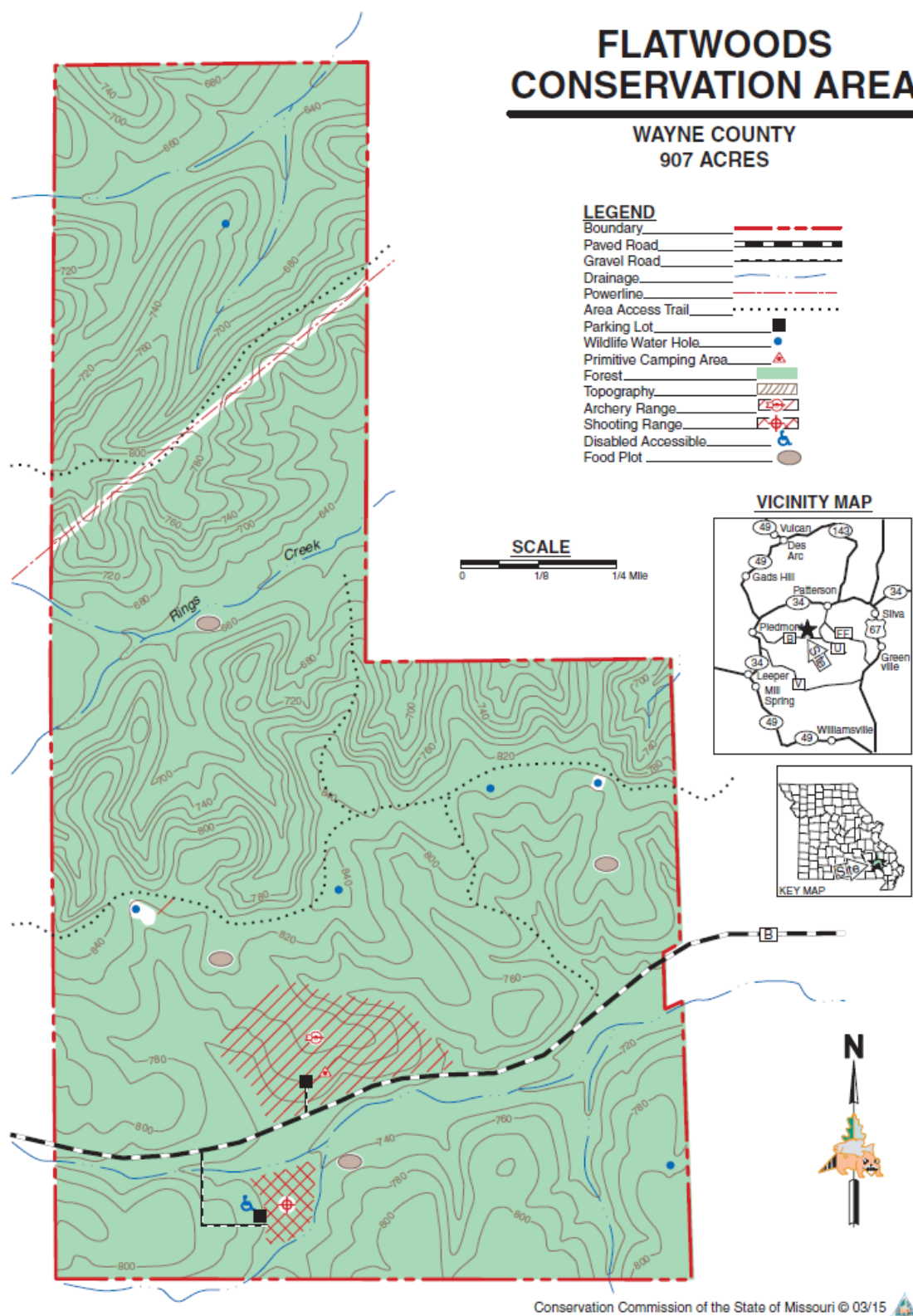


Figure 2: Topographic Map

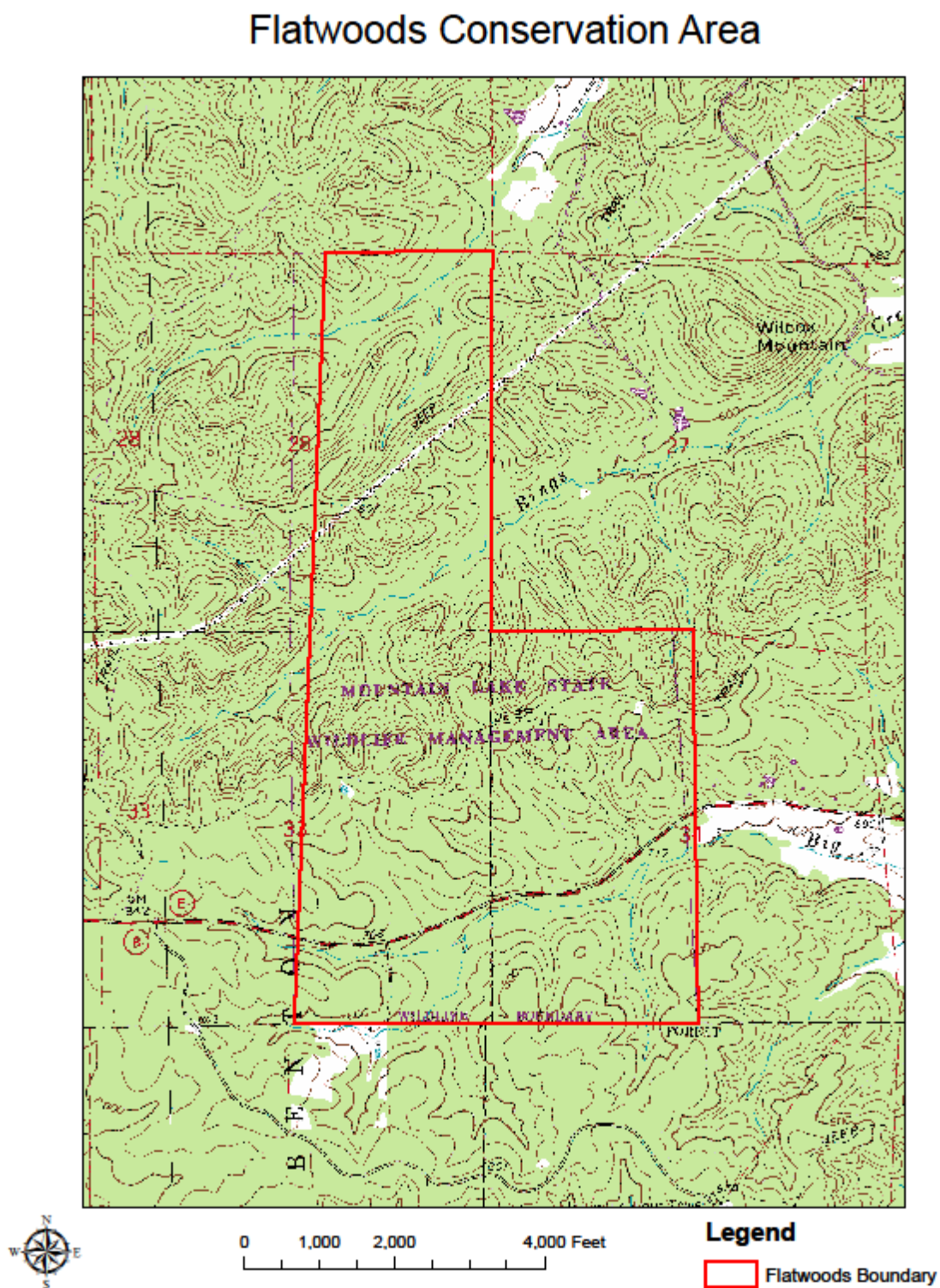


Figure 3: Landcover Map

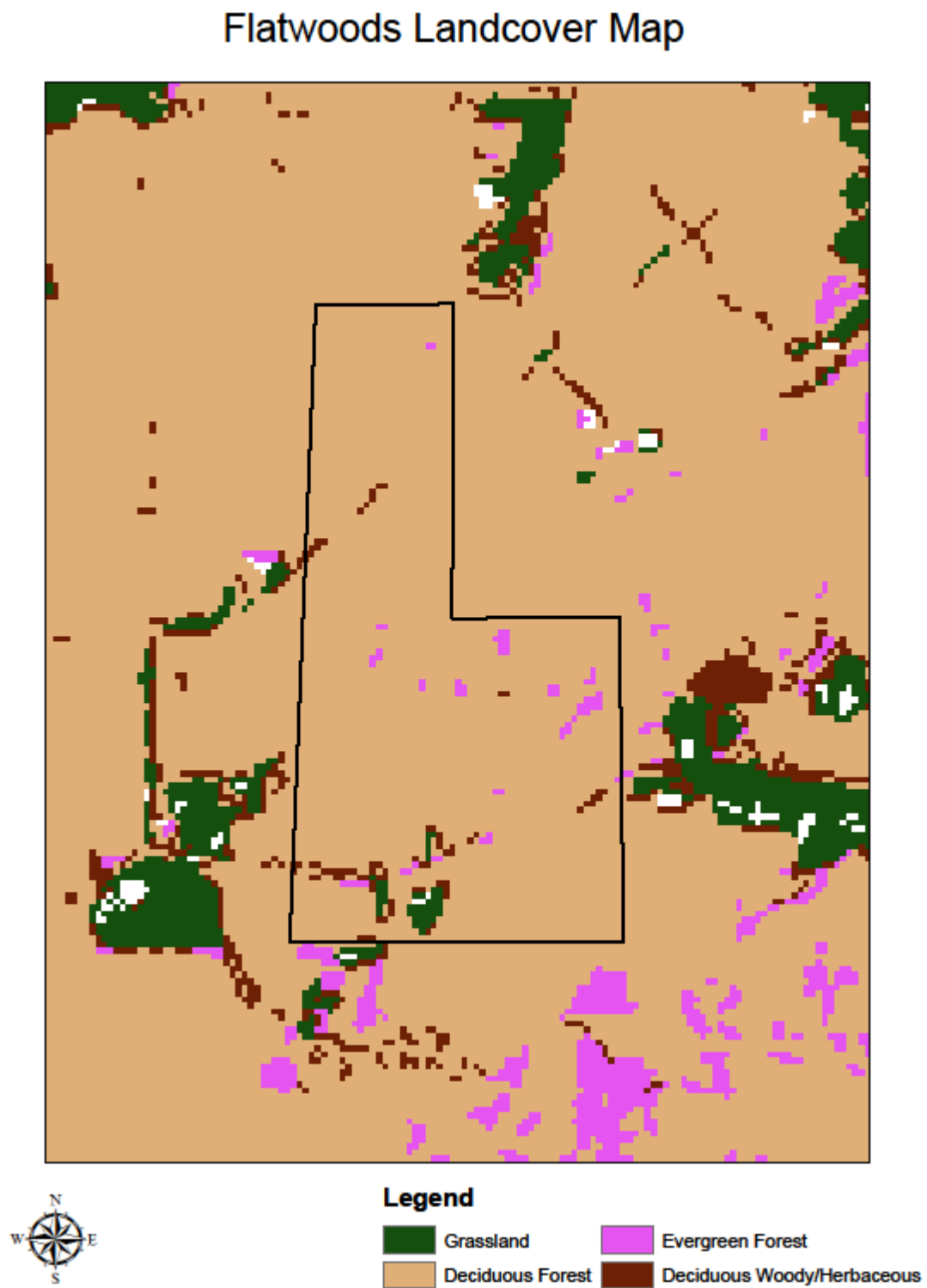


Figure 4: Forest Stand Map

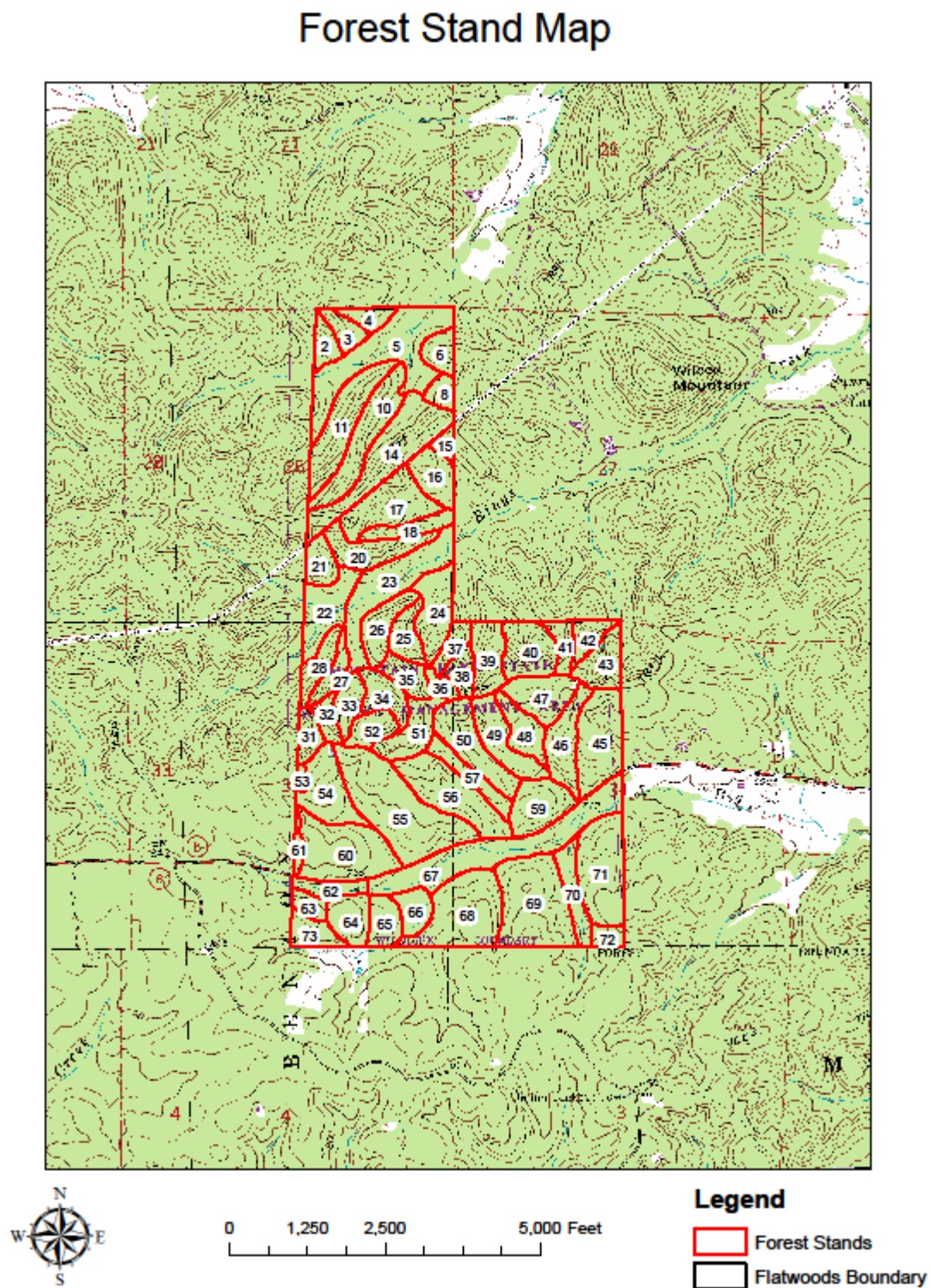
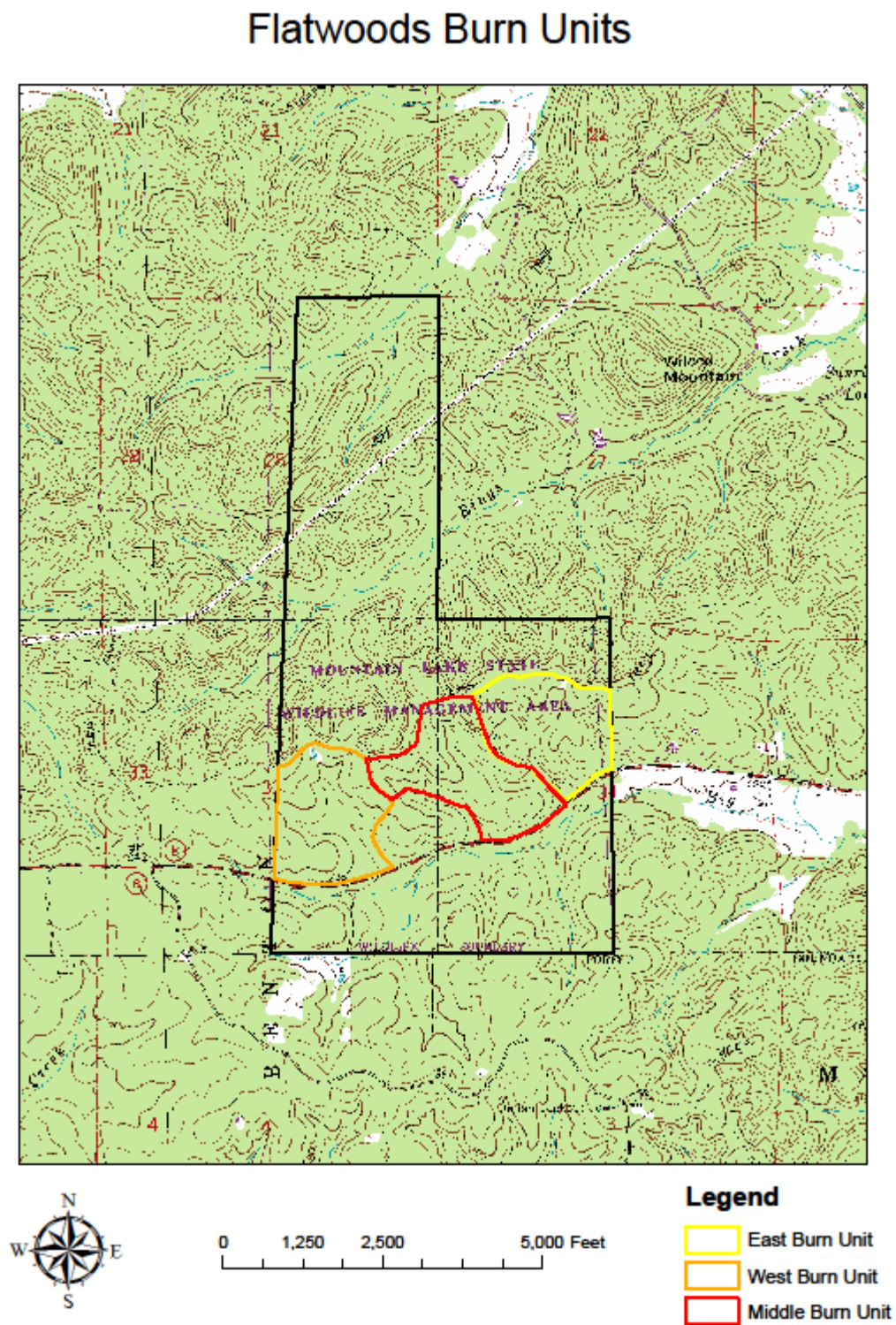


Figure 5: Burn Units Map



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